

Ranch's clients receive only the best quality beef. Dave helped develop the "Partnership for Quality" which was created in response to consumer demand for consistent, high-quality beef. The program now consists of about 70 families, all of whom are dedicated to the highest quality genetics, management practices and calf process and verification strategy. Individuals like Dave Woods have helped make America's beef industry one of the most trusted in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work and dedication my good friend, Dave Wood, has demonstrated over the past 40 years. His passion and diligence speaks to his character and truly exemplifies the best of what America has to offer. I congratulate Mr. Wood for this great achievement and ask that you join me in wishing him continued success.

HONORING DAVID SPELLICH

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge David Spellich upon his retirement after 14 years of service with the Livonia Public Schools.

After graduating from Belleville High School in 1970, Dave attended Eastern Michigan University. As often happens, he left EMU to pursue gainful employment. In 1987, Dave returned to Henry Ford Community College where he continued his education, transferring to Eastern Michigan to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in 1990.

Dave began his career as an educator by becoming an instructor in Livonia's Adult Education curriculum and went on to teach in Ferndale, Michigan's alternative education program. He encouraged his students, most of whom had a difficult path to education, to become more than they were. He organized a student prepared annual Thanksgiving Day dinner to be shared with their families and educators.

In 1998, Dave became a Social Studies instructor at Livonia Stevenson High School. He took on the roles of sophomore class sponsor and Chair of the Social Studies Department where he launched the AP Government program in the Livonia Public Schools. Dave then moved to Franklin High School in 2008, becoming the Student Activities Director. While serving in this capacity, he developed the freshman orientation/mentoring program. Returning to teach AP Government Stevenson High School in 2010, Mr. Spellich encouraged his students to contact elected officials to better understand the process of governing and legislation.

Mr. Speaker, David Spellich has faithfully served the students of Livonia, Michigan. As he enters the next phase of his life with Linda, his beloved wife of 38 years and his son Jason, perhaps he will continue to avidly travel beyond the 50 states of this great Nation, all of which he has visited. He leaves behind a legacy of dedication, integrity, and excellence. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating David Spellich upon his retirement and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

HONORING DR. AARON SHIRLEY
FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO SERVICE
TO THE CAUSE OF HEALTH
CARE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the original pioneers of rural and adolescent health care in the state of Mississippi, Dr. Aaron Shirley. Dr. Shirley has always worked to provide quality and accessible health care for the poor and underserved populations in the state of Mississippi.

Dr. Shirley was born in Gluckstadt, Mississippi on January 3, 1933. In 1951, he began his undergraduate studies at Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1955. He received his Medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee in 1959 and later interned at Hubbard Hospital before completing his residency in pediatrics in 1967 at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Dr. Shirley began private practice in 1960, and for 15 years, practiced general medicine in Vicksburg, Mississippi. From 1963 to 1967, he helped to organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and served as chairman for Warren County. Following this, Dr. Shirley was the director of the Mississippi Action for Progress, an organization which provided health care and education to children. From the beginning of his career, he has been committed to health care in Mississippi and was a pioneer in providing volunteer health services to Head Start centers at a time when Head Start was a budding program.

In 1970, Dr. Shirley, along with others, developed the largest community health center in the state of Mississippi, which now serves more than 40,000 low income patients annually. In 1979, he initiated a comprehensive health clinic within an inner city school to provide comprehensive health and counseling services for teens. He placed special emphasis on reducing teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, drug abuse, teenage violence, and mental health problems. This program has since served as a model for other school-based clinics nationwide.

Dr. Shirley's commitment to quality health care led him to be active in the development and/or organization of various agencies and projects which shared his dream of quality, affordable health care for all individuals. Some of those agencies included Mississippi Action for Progress, the Mississippi Association of Community Health Care for the Poor, the Medgar Evers Community Health Center, the Tufts Delta Health Center, and G.A. Carmichael Community Health Center.

Dr. Shirley has served as a member of the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta, Georgia, the Select Panel for the Promotion of Child Health, the National Health Insurance Advisory Committee, the Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., the Field Foundation in New York City, New York, and most notably, Dr. Shirley served as a working group member with President Bill Clinton's Health Care Reform Task Force in 1993.

During that same year, Dr. Shirley received the MacArthur Fellows Award which recognizes devotion, dedication, and strides made in one's field. He is the recipient of many outstanding awards both locally and nationally.

Currently, Dr. Shirley serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, Director of Community Medical Services, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Mississippi. His efforts are focused on developing and implementing innovative measures to access quality healthcare for the uninsured and underinsured residents of Mississippi. Dr. Shirley is working closely with the State Division of Medicaid as well as with hospitals and other not for profit agencies to reduce health disparities for Mississippians.

His model for Hinds County is currently being reviewed for possible statewide and national replication, through the Robert Wood Johnson's Communities in Charge Program. In 2005, Dr. Shirley was honored with the endowment of Chair for the Study of Health Disparities at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and he was selected to serve as a member of the Citizens Health Care Working Group which was mandated by Congress to hold hearings and community meetings across the country on health care coverage and cost issues, and to produce a "Health Report to the American People."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Aaron Shirley for his tireless commitment and service to the cause of health care throughout the state of Mississippi and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on February 15, 2012 I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54. If present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 50 and 51, and "yea" on rollcall votes 52, 53, and 54.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Turlock Irrigation District as it gets ready to celebrate its 125th anniversary this year.

Established in 1887, the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) was the first publicly owned irrigation district in the state. Organized under the Wright Act, the District operated as a special district under the provisions of the California Water Code. In 1893, TID and the neighboring Modesto Irrigation District built La Grange Dam to divert water into their canal systems; and in 1900, Henry Stirling was the first farmer to receive irrigation water from TID canals in Ceres.

Beginning in 1923, TID began a system of expansion to provide electric retail energy, as